

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 2, lines 10-29, as follows:

As just an example, a traditional electronic B2B transaction between a buyer and a seller of goods might involve the buyer submitting an electronic purchase order to the seller, the seller processing this purchase order as appropriate (and perhaps accessing a supply chain planning application in the process), and the seller then manufacturing and shipping the goods to the ~~seller~~ buyer to fulfill the purchase order. The seller must then send invoice instructions to a separate accounting process for generation of an invoice to the buyer, creation of accounts receivable records, and the like. The seller then waits to get paid. The buyer receives the goods and must accept or reject the goods in whole or in part, update its inventory information, and return any rejected goods to the seller. The buyer typically waits until the order is accepted, which may include waiting until any replacement goods are received and accepted, before paying the invoice (less appropriate adjustments for rejected goods or otherwise). When the seller receives these returns, it ships replacement goods to the buyer to fulfill the order, along with performing any additional supply chain planning, inventory, or other back-office processes associated with the return and re-shipment. The buyer eventually pays in full, modifies its accounts payable, generates internal accounting information, and generates financial statements, profit and loss (P&L) statements, budgets, and the like reflecting payment. Similarly, when the seller finally receives payment from the buyer, the seller posts the payment, ages its accounts receivable, generates internal accounting information, and generates financial statements, P&L statements, budgets, and the like reflecting payment.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 8, lines 22-32, as follows:

In one embodiment, settlement marketplace 16 may be coupled to a marketplace-to-marketplace ("M2M") transaction services network through which electronic financial transaction services associated with settlement marketplace 16 may be made available to buyers and sellers interacting with another electronic marketplace coupled to the M2M transaction services network. For example only

and without limitation, copending U.S. Application No. 09/_____ 09/679,464 describes suitable techniques for brokering such services among electronic marketplaces using a service transaction broker. Participants may be able to register for services of settlement marketplace 16 in the same or similar way as they register for access to services associated with other marketplaces. Alternatively, some or all of the services of settlement marketplace 16 may be supported on the same marketplace through which the underlying commercial transaction is initiated.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 15, line 32 through page 16, line 3, as follows:

A An appropriate mix of participant self-service, automated help functionality, and customer service representatives will provide for customer care. Controlled access to some or all transaction data is preferably granted to participants as appropriate, allowing them to access substantially real-time status information concerning transaction in which they are involved.